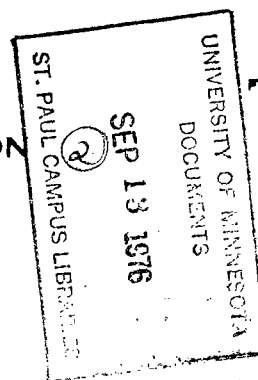


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THE FOURTH ANNUAL MINNESOTA CARLOAD BABY BEEF CONTEST

1928 - 1929

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Conclusions

1. In each lot a wide variation is found in the weight of calves of the same age even though sired and fed alike. The difference, may be attributed to the breeding ability of the dams and the results indicate clearly that considerably larger returns may be secured by culling cow herds on the basis of their ability to produce calves which go through the feed lot making satisfactory growth and finish.

2. Medium to large thick fleshed cows make up the herds of the winning contestants. This indicates that cows of this type are the most desirable kind for baby beef production.

3. Medium to big type bulls with scale and thickness are the desirable kind of sires to use for baby beef production.

4. The steers in each contest outgained the heifers, but have not finished as early.

5. By skillful feeding, pail fed calves can be fattened as rapidly as calves nursing their dams.

6. It pays to creep feed grain to the calves while running with their dams. At least 100 pounds can be added to the weight of the calf by weaning time in this way.

7. Some feeders of baby beef calves do not feed a sufficiently generous ration, to secure the maximum gains during the first 60 to 90 days of the feeding period. After the calves are once on feed, nearly full feeding of grain until they go to market is desirable.

These contests have been conducted to locate the most successful baby beef feeders, to study the methods followed by these men and to encourage others to follow the procedure that has proved successful.

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OFFICIAL WEIGHTS
1928 - 1929

Rank	Name	County	Address	Breed	Weight
1	James Ellsworth	Rock	Magnolia	Hereford	934.8
2	H.C. Hansen	Redwood	Evan	Hereford	880.75
3	E.D. Karlen	Mower	Le Roy	Aberdeen Angus	879.66
4	Elmer Bendixen	Redwood	Morgan	Aberdeen Angus	864.5
5	Cox Bros.	Nobles	Adrian	Hereford	853.3
6	Bolstad Bros.	Polk	Winger	Hereford	822.5
7	John C. Wester	Nobles	Adrian	Hereford	816.5
8	Walter Oelke	Faribault	Blue Earth	Aberdeen Angus	806
9	Daly Bros.	Martin	Granada	Hereford	792.5
10	C.O. Gillfillan	Redwood	Redwood Falls	Hereford	788

The results of the fourth annual Minnesota carload baby beef contest compare with those from the three previous contests when allowances are made for the difference in the length of the feeding periods. The winning load in the first contest averaged 1056 pounds; the second, 1040 pounds; the third, 953 pounds, and the fourth 935 pounds, the last two were for calves averaging 40 days less in age than for the first two years.

In the first two contests each lot of calves was weighed up when they averaged 450 days of age. Objections were raised by contestants to the length of the feeding period so the time was shortened to 410 days average age for the lots in the third contest.

The reasons for the change were:

1. In the longer period heifers were finishing sooner than the steers and in a few instances sold below the steers because of being overdone. The shorter period has taken care of this.
2. The longer period required more financing in the holding of the cattle and purchasing of feed.
3. The feeders desired to market before hot weather and fly time set in.

The change to 410 days has overcome these objections, but in several of the lots the calves were not yet ready for market and were held longer in the feed lot after being weighed up.

No other changes have been made in the following rules:

1. The calves must be born between February 1 and July 31.
2. They may run with their dams or be pail fed.
3. The dams may be grade or purebred cows of beef breeding but the sires must be purebred beef bulls.
4. No limitations are placed on feeds used or methods of feeding.
5. Fifteen calves constitute a carload but 20 head may be entered and the 15 heaviest taken as the load. The extra calves are allowed as a precaution against loss of calves, injuries, and a handicap from poor feeding individuals.

1929 WINNERS

James Ellsworth, Magnolia, Rock county, won first place in this the fourth annual contest, with an average weight of 934.8 pounds. The calves were grade and purebred Herefords from medium to big type cows and sired by a big type thick fleshed purebred Polled Hereford bull.

Three of the calves were pail fed while the balance ran with the cows. At the conclusion of the contest the pail fed calves were the heaviest.

The pail fed calves received whole milk for three weeks, then skim milk replaced one-half of the whole milk for one week, following which skim milk only was fed. This was continued throughout the summer. Oats was given as soon as the calves would eat it and full fed during the summer with the addition of some ground corn. The calves were weaned and started on feed November 1, 1928. The ration at the start consisted of oats and corn and cob meal equal parts and alfalfa hay. They were on full feed by December 1 when they were consuming six bushels of corn and two of oats. At this time one pound of oil meal per head per day was added. On January 1 molasses was added at the rate of about 1½ pounds per steer per day. The amount of feed was increased as they would take it. They were fed three times daily at regular meal times. If any showed a lack of appetite, feeding was reduced to twice daily. The same ration, corn, oats, oil meal, molasses and alfalfa was continued to the end of the feeding trial but in increased amounts. These calves had the run of a good shed in which the roughage was fed. The grain bunk was located in the yard as was the covered water tank which was kept from freezing. Barrel salt was fed to insure sufficient consumption.

The calves topped the market at Sioux City as a mixed load of steers and heifers.

H.C. Hansen, Evan, Redwood county, won second place with an average weight of 880.7 pounds. His calves were purebred Hereford from cows of good size and typed and sired by a big thick fleshed purebred Hereford bull.

The feeding period started October 15, 1928. They were hand fed twice daily a ration of shelled corn with a little oats and barley and alfalfa hay at will. Corn silage was fed for the first three months. On May 1 the ration consisted of corn 5 parts, oats and barley 2 parts with a little bran and alfalfa hay at will. This ration was continued with increasing amount of corn and a decrease in the roughage to the end of the contest.

These calves topped the South St. Paul Market on June 12 as a mixed load of steers and heifers.

E.D. Karlen, LeRoy, Mower county, won third place with an average weight of 879.6 pounds. His calves were purebred Aberdeen Angus from cows of good size and type and sired by a big thick fleshed purebred Aberdeen Angus bull.

The feeding period started November 15, 1928. They were hand fed twice daily a ration of oats and shelled corn, and alfalfa hay at will until January 1. A change was then made to corn and cob meal which was continued to April 1. Linseed oil meal, at 1 pound per head, was added February 1 and continued to the end of the feeding period. Corn silage was an additional roughage during the winter months. The ration was changed to shelled corn and the roughage decreased to the end of the contest.

The Cost of a Baby Beef Calf

The men in this contest believe they are warranted in maintaining a cow herd with which to produce their own baby beef calves. For these reasons:

1. That they are assured a crop of calves of known quality.



2. That these calves go into the feed lot at a cost lower than the cost of purchased feeder calves.

Estimates were obtained from the contestants to determine the cost of keeping a cow or the cost of raising a calf to feeding age. These figures indicate there is a place for beef cow herds on many Minnesota farms for the production of baby beef. It is apparent that under conditions prevailing in recent years these home grown calves cost the owner at least \$10.00 less than they could have been bought for.

The contest was made possible through the financial support of the Minnesota Livestock Breeders Association.